

#39 - Kay Gameiro

From: Church in the forest [citf@mbay.net]

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2004 10:36 AM

To: mccuet@co.monterey.ca.us

Subject: Draft EIR Comments

Mr. Tom McCue:

Let me introduce myself: My name is Kay Gameiro and I have been a property owner and resident of Pebble Beach since 1987. I work at the Chapel at Stevenson School on Forest Lake Road as an Administrator and Wedding Coordinator. And last but not least, I stable my horse Snow at PB Equestrian Center and use the facilities and trails daily. Needless to say, much of my life experience is deeply rooted here in the forest. Therefore, I would like to make a few comments on the Draft EIR addressing the proposed plans for changes to my world.

As a resident and avid equestrian, I would like to comment on the proposed restrictions on trail use by equestrians. First of all, I am quite surprised that whomever studied the forest and put together these recommendations, made no note of the damage caused by illegal bicycles on the trails near the proposed new equestrian center. Snow and I have seen this damage first-hand as well as encountered bicyclists on the upper trails. When we politely reminded the bikers that they are prohibited from trail use, most admit they are there because they never get "caught". With more use on these upper trails by equestrians, bike use will naturally diminish. These damaged trails will begin to heal and equestrian use will ultimately prove to have a positive impact.

Equestrians have been an integral part of the Pebble Beach culture since 1925 and should not in any way be limited by the proposed changes in the forest. Margaret Leighton, Trails Coordinator for the PB Company hosts a monthly Trail Days. Together with her team and those hikers and equestrians who are able, work tirelessly to maintain the trails. As a group, equestrians are eager to cooperate as good neighbors and work to not only maintain but improve the unique beauty of the forest we all love. It saddens me to think that we should be punished or limited by this project.

I would also like to point out that much of the "protected wetlands" are man-made and should be corrected, not protected. This would allow a more comparable facility to the one we are losing to be constructed.

We are losing a large multi-use open space because of the proposed use restrictions on these man-made wetlands. If the drainage problems were corrected, these areas could be incorporated into the new equestrian facility. The entire community would benefit.

Although the DMFPO and the PBRTA, both of which I am a member, have made formal comments, I appreciate your time and attention to my first-hand and heart-felt concerns.

Warm regards,
Kay Gameiro
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